

**William Thornton, Alexander White, and Tristram Dalton,
Commissioners to Thomas Jefferson, December 19,
1801, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital.
Edited by Saul K. Padover.**

Commissioners to Jefferson

Commissioners' Office, December 19, 1801.

Sir:

Agreeably to the information given in our memorial of the 4th instant, we have held a sale of lots for ready money, which we kept open ten days. It has produced, by actual sales, 4,234 dollars, and by payments made by debtors, to prevent their property from being sold, 7,613 dollars, making, together, 11,847 dollars; yet our expenditures have been such as to leave at this time no more than 5,880 dollars in our hands. During the sale, we pursued our general policy of not selling any property for less than the sum due on it to the public; thinking it improper to change that system until it should be known what measures Government will take with respect to it,

although (besides the interest due to the State of Maryland) the commissioners' note for 5,000 dollars discounted at the Bank of Columbia, will become due 22d (25th) January next, and we estimate the sums due for operations on the roads and buildings, expenses of the commissioners' office, and other contingencies to the end of the year, at 1,870 dollars, demands to which our present means are very inadequate.

We are, with sentiments of the highest respect, sir, your obedient servants.

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William Thornton,

Alexander White,

Tristram Dalton.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

[P. 256, AMERICAN STATE PAPERS, MISCELLANEOUS, Vol. I.]